PATRIOT



MISSION

Provide defense of critical assets and maneuver forces belonging to the corps and to echelons above corps against aircraft, cruise missiles, and tactical ballistic missiles (TBMs).

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The combat element of the PATRIOT missile system is the fire unit, which consists of a phased array radar set (RS), an engagement control station (ECS), an electric power plant (EPP), an antenna mast group (AMG), and eight remotely located launching stations (LS). The RS provides all tactical functions of airspace surveillance, target detection and tracking, and missile guidance and engagement support. The ECS provides the human interface for command control of operations. Each LS contains four ready-to-fire missiles sealed in canisters that serve dual purposes as shipping containers and launch tubes. PATRIOT's fast-reaction capability, high firepower, ability to track numerous targets simultaneously, and ability to operate in a severe electronic countermeasure environment are significant improvements over previous air defense systems.

The PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) upgrade program will incorporate significant upgrades to the RS and ECS, and will add the new PAC-3 missile which utilizes hit-to-kill technology for greater lethality against TBMs armed with weapons of mass destruction. Additionally, it will be possible to have up to 16 PAC-3 missiles per launcher, increasing firepower and missile defense capabilities. The primary mission of the PAC-3 missile is to kill maneuvering and non-maneuvering TBMs, and the system will also be able to counter advanced cruise missiles and aircraft. The PAC-3 upgrade program will comprise system improvements to increase performance against an evolving threat, meet user needs, and enhance joint interoperability.

FOREIGN COUNTERPART

Russia: a combination of the SA-10 and SA-12

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

The Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Kuwait, and Greece are currently participating in PATRIOT acquisition programs. Discussions are ongoing with several other interested allies for acquisition of the PATRIOT system.

PROGRAM STATUS

Fielding of the basic PATRIOT system to U.S. forces is complete. The system is deployed in Continental United States, Europe, Korea, and Southwest Asia. U.S. missile production deliveries include PATRIOT Anti-tactical Ballistic Missile Capability-2 (PAC-2) and guidance enhanced missile. The PAC-3 program is 75% complete with the RS, ECS, and LS improvements in production. The PAC-3 missile is in the test flight phase of engineering and manufacturing development. Having successfully conducted two intercepts of TBM targets, the PAC-3 system has entered low-rate initial production.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

Low-rate initial production is ongoing.

PRIME CONTRACTORS

Raytheon (Bedford, MA); Lockheed Martin (Grand Prairie, TX)



^{*} See appendix for list of subcontractors

